

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02 /063 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:BCLARK:LA
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
PM/ISP:JHAWES
UR/RPE:WDAMERON
EUR/SE:JMARCOTT

-----059287 280051Z /73

O 280002Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, NATO, NAC

SUBJECT: NATO SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP
TO THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT

REF: USNATO 6368 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH USNATO'S COMMENTS IN REFTEL
AND CONCURS WITH MISSION'S PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION
DURING JUNE 28 NAC DISCUSSION OF THE SYG'S REPORT ON
FOLLOW-UP TO THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT.

2. REGARDING PARA 2(C), IF TOPIC ARISES, WE CONCUR WITH
THE PROPOSAL TO STRESS THAT OUR ARMS CONTROL CONSULTATION
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RECORD IN THE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN EXCELLENT, AND WE ENDORSE
THE PRINCIPLE OF FULL CONSULTATION IN THIS AREA IN THE
FUTURE. FYI: THE BRITISH INDICATED TO US DURING BILATERALS
ON SALT AND THEATER ISSUES JUNE 23 (STATE 162631) THAT
THEY INTEND SHORTLY TO MAKE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW
CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ON ARMS CONTROL IN NATO,
POSSIBLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW COMMITTEE ON ARMS

CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT TO PARALLEL THE SPC. EMBASSY LONDON HAS INDICATED THAT UK MAY FLOAT SUGGESTION ON THIS POINT NEXT WEEK. WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS AT THIS POINT. IN GENERAL WE OPPOSE THE PROLIFERATION OF COMMITTEES IF AN EXISTING ONE CAN HANDLE THE WORK FORESEEN. MOREOVER, IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION OF SALT AND THEATER SYSTEMS ISSUES, WE WANT TO PRESERVE BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL FLEXIBILITY, AND AVOID PREMATURE DEVELOPMENT OF FORMALIZED NATIONAL POSITIONS AND PROCEDURES. WE WOULD HOPE UK WOULD NOT PRESS FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AT JUNE 28 MEETING. WE WILL BE GETTING OUT SEPTTEL ON OUR THINKING RE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSULTATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. END FYI.

3. AS FOR THE SYG'S STUDY ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, WE STAND READY TO HELP TO INSURE THAT IT IS REALISTIC AND ACCURATE AND MAKES A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON ITS PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE BEFORE DECIDING HOW ACTIVE A ROLE WE SHOULD TAKE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, MEETING REPORTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE163993
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BCLARK:LA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780266-1038
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780611/aaaaajkp.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c0bbc97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 6368
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2171662
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT
TAGS: PORG, US, NATO, NAC
To: USNATO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c0bbc97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014